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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 22 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronin, President of the Republic of Moldova, issued on 21 September 2006, on the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Alexei **Tulbure**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronin, President of the Republic of Moldova, on inclusion of the item "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development" in the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly

21 September 2006

The sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly is of special significance for the Republic of Moldova. For the first time Moldova, together with its GUAM partners has succeeded in placing on the agenda of the General Assembly an issue related to the most serious political problems of the region. The very fact that the issue of protracted conflicts in the Black Sea region and the southern Caucasus region and their impact on international peace and security has been placed on the agenda indicates that the time is ripe for this subject to be discussed at the global level, in the most authoritative international forum in the world.

We considered it very odd indeed that in the United Nations, one of whose main goals is to maintain peace and stability and to prevent, resolve and overcome the consequences of armed conflicts in the world, "frozen" conflicts in the post-Soviet area were not being discussed at all. This situation has done little to help the efforts to find a solution to these severe political problems, including, of course, a peaceful and just resolution of the Transnistrian issue. What has happened, at the global level, is that protracted or "frozen" conflicts have been turning into forgotten conflicts. But we have finally succeeded in tearing down the wall of silence. The world will learn the truth about these conflicts in our countries. The world will learn the truth, which will ring out from the highest rostrum in the world, the rostrum of the United Nations General Assembly. A whole series of documents on the actual situation in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova has already been submitted to the members of the world body, and, significantly, have become official United Nations documents. And this is only the beginning.

The goal of our efforts at the United Nations is not to change the current format of negotiations for settlement of the Transnistrian problem, nor to reject the constructive proposals made at various times by co-chairpersons and observers of the negotiating process, which the Republic of Moldova has greatly appreciated. Our goal is to inform the entire international community of the truth about what is happening in areas of "frozen" conflicts, what is going on in Transnistria, the nature of this conflict, the substance of official initiatives advanced by the Government in Chisinau, the current prospects for a final resolution of this conflict, the role of various participants in the settlement process and why it has gone on unresolved for so many years. We also intend to speak from the United Nations rostrum about the risks and the danger of the continued existence of conflict zones in the Black Sea region and in the southern Caucasus, human rights violations in the territories under the control of separatist regimes, the lost generations of young men and women who

have grown up under dictatorship where fundamental freedoms have been ruthlessly repressed, the lamentable situation of children and the elderly in conflict zones and the danger of environmental and man-made disasters in areas where munitions and weapons belonging to another country are stored and warehoused unregulated.

We see our task as that of tearing down the wall of silence which surrounds the Transnistrian conflict at the global level and mobilizing the enormous and varied potential of the United Nations, which may be capable of giving fresh impetus to the process of finally resolving "frozen" conflicts in the post-Soviet area. I earnestly hope that in doing so we will be able to consolidate all the noble efforts of the international community, and finally achieve a peaceful, just and definitive settlement of the Transnistrian problem.